



Howard County Council

George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

COUNCILMEMBERS

Liz Walsh, Chairperson
District 1

Opel Jones, Vice Chairperson
District 2

Christiana Rigby
District 3

Deb Jung
District 4

David Yungmann
District 5

Monthly Meeting Minutes (Approved)

Web-based Virtual Meeting

Video Streamed on <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Online-Tools/Watch-Us>

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

1:00 p.m.

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 1:04 p.m.

Councilmembers present: Liz Walsh, Chairperson; Opel Jones, Vice Chairperson; Deb Jung; Christiana Rigby; and David Yungmann.

Staff Present: Michelle Harrod and Ed Shulder, Dep. County Auditors; Gary Kuc, County Solicitor; Amanda Mihill, Assistant County Solicitor; Theo Wimberly, Administrative Manager; Margery Sayers, Executive Assistant

I. Summary of Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) - Participants: Cheri King, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP (CLA); Holly Sun, Budget; Rafiu Ighile, Finance; Michelle Harrod, Audit.

Ms. King gave PowerPoint presentation of the Audit Plan and deliverables. The CAFR resulted in a clean report issued in November. The County's Retirement plan along with Police and Fire plans were issued clean reports. There is also an audit of Grant funds due in March. CARES funding audit is due in June, there was a federal extension. The Yellowbook letter came back clean. There was a Management letter issued due to the lack of testing of the Disaster Recovery Plan. Also, there were some expenditures that were misreported.

Some additional issues that were discussed:

- There was a comparison of audits in other County governments.
- There was a discussion about how the public finds the information found in the CAFR. The CAFR and the Auditor's summary are posted on the Finance Department's website.
- Unanticipated onetime revenue windfall in FY'21.
- Discussion about why County Services were underbudgeted.

II. Fiscal Projections – Participants: Holly Sun, Budget and Rafiu Ighile, Finance

Mr. Ighile and Ms. Sun stated that comprehensive projections will be available in mid-February to early March. Currently, Income Tax projections are OK for now,

however, not sure about how projections will look down the road. Accessible base growth is slow to moderate but it is positive.

Some additional issues that were discussed:

- There will be \$253 million released to all Maryland counties, \$17 million will be coming to Howard County.
- There was a further discussion about property tax projections and one-time reconciliation.
- The Administration is to provide information to the Council about the number of Howard County businesses that have shut down operations since the pandemic.

III. Route 40 Streetscape – Koreatown Pillar Project – Participants: Koreatown Planning Committee members: Soo Lee-Cho, Soo Park, Henry Kim, Daniel Park; State Highways: Terri Soo and Mark Crampton; Bob Francis, DILP; Tom Meunier, DPW.

The Koreatown Planning Committee provided the Council with a briefing on status of the project. The project will consist of two 12-foot Korean-style arches to be erected along Route 40. Mr. Crampton from State Highways walked the Council through the State process to date.

Some additional issues that were discussed:

- Utilities in the Right-of-Way;
- Different types of monuments erected around the State;
- DILPs initial concerns with the project and the changes that were made to improve the project;
- What public discussions were had, to date, with the non-Korean citizens and business along Route 40;
- What abatement provisions exist for this type of project;
- Any future questions about the project should be forwarded to the Koreatown Planning Committee.

Councilmanic Redistricting Chair Discussion - Participants: Theodore Wimberly, Administrative Manager; Brandee Ganz, DTCS; Jackie Scott and Stephanie Adibe, DCRS; Guy Mickley, Board of Elections; Amy Gowan/Jeff Bronow, DPZ; Gary Kuc/Amanda Mihill, OoL.

A discussion occurred about the following:

- The uncertainty of Census data being released to the locals;
- DTCS's role in providing technical support with respect to the Redistricting software and assistance and training to the Redistricting Commission;
- DPZ's role in providing demographic context to the Commission;
- The Office of Law providing legal advice to the Commission; and
- The Board of Elections' need to have a final Redistricting plan at least six months prior to the Primary Election date.

IV. Reports –

- a.** Chair provided report on upcoming events; work of staff
- b.** Councilmember Jones provided updates on MACo
- c.** Council Administrator and Auditor submitted written reports.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:12 p.m.